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The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

General and complete disarmament: confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context; reducing nuclear danger; establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia

Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade and development

Human rights questions

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixtieth year

Letter dated 11 March 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the following Permanent Missions of States Members of the United Nations that are also members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, I have the honour, as a representative of the country chairing the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, to forward herewith the joint communiqué of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in Astana on 25 February 2005 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 27, 65 (m), 65 (q), 65 (bb), 83 (a), 105 and 148, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yerzhan Kh. **Kazykhanov**

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Annex to the letter dated 11 March 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint communiqué of the meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

On 25 February 2005 a meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization was held in Astana. The meeting was attended by Mr. Li Zhaoxing, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Mr. K. K. Tokayev, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. A. Ch. Aimatov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. S. V. Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. T. N. Nazarov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan and Mr. E. M. Ganiyev, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Mr. Zhang Deguang, Executive Secretary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, also attended the meeting.

Mr. N. A. Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, met the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Kazakhstan.

A number of current issues relating to the broadening of cooperation were discussed in a constructive and friendly spirit and there was also an exchange of views on international questions of mutual concern.

The heads of foreign affairs departments noted that, since the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, held in Tashkent on 17 June 2004 and the meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the members, held in Bishkek on 23 September 2004, intensive efforts have been made within the Organization to implement the agreements reached at those meetings on the broadening of multifaceted cooperation.

In the discussion of issues connected with preparations for the holding of the regular meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the members of the Organization in the summer of 2005 in Astana, emphasis was placed on the need to focus particularly on key problems with regard to the further strengthening of the Organization's potential in addressing current challenges and threats to security and stability in the region, and on carrying out the practical tasks of expanding multilateral cooperation in the political, economic and cultural fields.

The Ministers noted the urgency and importance of the instructions of the heads of State concerning the development of a comprehensive programme document on combating the new challenges and threats, taking into account their transnational character, and the need for consistent consolidation of the efforts of the international community through multilateral dialogue and collective action. The Ministers support the measures being taken within the framework of the Shanghai

Cooperation Organization to coordinate cooperation in combating terrorism, separatism and extremism and attach great importance to the forthcoming regular meeting of the Secretaries of the Security Councils of the States members of the Organization in the spring of 2005.

The heads of foreign affairs departments underlined the importance of strengthening the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in order to ensure stability and peace in Central Asia, including the measures being taken by the States of the region to that end. They affirmed the readiness of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to cooperate actively, on the basis of equality and mutual respect, with the United Nations, other international organizations and States. It was noted with satisfaction that the creation of the contact group between the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Afghanistan was nearing completion. The Ministers spoke in favour of signing the memorandums of understanding between the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's secretariat and the secretariat of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and between the Organization's secretariat and the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). They noted the need for strict implementation of the 2005 cooperation programme between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the States members.

The Ministers concurred on a broad range of international and regional issues. The need to prevent the appearance of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula in the interests of peace and stability, to continue the six-party talks and to resolve the nuclear problem peacefully through dialogue. The participants in the talks and the international community should continue to be patient, display flexibility and good will, prevent any exacerbation of the situation and continue their vigorous joint efforts towards a prompt resumption of the six-party talks.

Emphasis was placed on the importance of signing a treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia as soon as possible and note was taken of the fact that the States of Central Asia intend to sign the treaty in Semipalatinsk in July 2005.

The participants in the meeting noted the constructive role of the meeting held in Bishkek on 19 February 2005 of the deputy heads of ministries responsible for foreign economic and foreign trade activities with respect to the implementation of the Plan of Measures to give effect to the multilateral trade and economic cooperation programme, improving the mechanism for implementation of the Plan, as well as promoting agreement on priority multilateral cooperation projects. A favourable evaluation was made of the work being conducted under the auspices of the secretariat for the establishment of a Business Council, a Development Fund and a Forum of the Organization which would be called upon to promote the more effective implementation of programme documents already in force and of joint strategic approaches to improving the activities of the Organization.

The heads of foreign affairs departments are convinced that all of the States members of the Organization have a sovereign right, in their social and political development, to take their own path, one that is most in keeping with their social traditions arising from their history, culture, world view and other factors. They consider that political stability and the development of democratic processes are interrelated and are a determining factor in the progress and prosperity of the States members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Note was taken of the reports of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan on the measures being taken in both countries with a view to holding democratic, open and transparent parliamentary elections on 27 February 2005. The Ministers supported the proposal to send observers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to those elections.

The Ministers emphasized that the further strengthening of trust, the expansion of political collaboration, including in the field of security, the development of economic, commercial and investment cooperation as well as of cultural and humanitarian links within the framework of the Organization are among the most important prerequisites for effectively addressing the tasks and achieving the objectives set forth in the charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

(*Signed*) **Li** Zhaoxing
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

(*Signed*) K. **Tokayev**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*) A. **Aimatov**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

(*Signed*) T. **Nazarov**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

(*Signed*) E. **Ganiyev**
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for
Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan